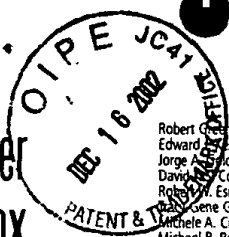




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\*Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

December 16, 2002

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Art Unit 1761

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 10/040,942; Filed: January 9, 2002  
For: **Process for the Production of Reconstitutale Bean Products**  
Inventors: Borders *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1533.0580001/SRL/NJL

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO-1449 citing 1 reference;
3. Copy of 1 cited reference; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

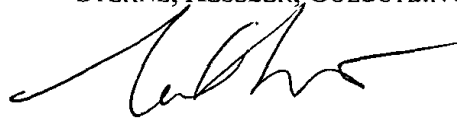
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
December 16, 2002  
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Nancy J. Leith  
Agent for Applicants  
Registration No. 45,309

SRL/NJL:cpn  
Enclosures

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SKGF Rev. 2/15/02 dcw